

[27th August 1926]

11-15
a.m.

Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI:—"With reference to the statement in the answer given that doubts have arisen regarding the capacity of the Receiver to bind the Estate in the matter, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have obtained the necessary legal opinion, viz., the opinion of the Advocate-General, on the matter?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I do not quite catch the hon. Member. I am not quite sure on what point legal opinion should be obtained."

Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI:—"Regarding the power of the Receiver to bind the Estate in the matter of contribution to the repairs of the Manur channel, etc.?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I do not understand to what question he is referring."

Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI:—"It is stated in the answer to this question:

'At that time (1918) the Collector did not regard the matter as urgent, and the proposals were shelved. The matter was taken up again in 1923, at the instance of the then Collector and it was reported that the estimate would, at current rates, come to Rs. 55,000. Meanwhile the question of contribution has become complicated by the fact that the Uthumalai estate is now in the hands of a Receiver appointed by the District Court, and doubts have arisen regarding his capacity to bind the Estate in the matter.'

"Have Government taken legal opinion on the matter, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Then, I would ask the hon. Member to go on to the next sentence in the answer, which says that the matter is still under correspondence. So far as that is concerned, legal opinion can be taken only after a decision is arrived at."

Closing of breaches in the banks of the Tambraparni river.

* 2363 Q.—Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI: With reference to question No. 2180 [i and ii, (a) to (n)], regarding the closing of certain breaches in the banks of the Tambraparni river, and answered at the meeting held on 16th July 1926, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the Council table any report received on the subject from the departments concerned at the next meeting of the Council in August 1926?

A.—The report^a of the Executive Engineer dated 2nd July 1926 is laid on the table.

Appointment of a Special officer for coolies working in the Mettur Project.

* 2364 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Special officer was appointed to look after the coolies, who are working in the Mettur Project as far as sanitation, house accommodation, wages, etc., are concerned;

27th August 1926]

(b) what would be the approximate number of coolies who are now working; and

(c) if no Special officer was appointed, the reason for not appointing such an officer?

A.—(a) Yes. A Health Officer has been appointed to look after the coolies so far as sanitation is concerned. The Executive Engineer in charge of Construction attends to the house-accommodation, wages, etc., of the coolies.

(b) About 800.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know how many of the 800 coolies employed in the Mettur Project belong to the depressed classes ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I must ask for notice.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ I want to know why a Special officer from the Labour department was not deputed to look after these 800 coolies, since the Health Officer and the Executive Engineer in charge have already got too many activities to do ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Order, order, that is a separate question.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether Government are at least contemplating to appoint a special officer to look after those coolies ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Order, order, that is a suggestion for action.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether any school has been opened there ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ That is a separate question.”

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Representation of the barber's community in local boards and municipalities.

* 2365 Q.—Mr. B. OBALESAPPA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps on the observation made by me in my speech on the 5th March 1925 during general discussion on the budget, regarding the representation of the barber's community by nomination to every local board and municipality; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the names of persons of that community that were nominated since 1st April 1925?

A.—(a) & (b) The claims of members of the barber community are considered with the claims of other communities when suitable persons are available for appointments. M. R. Ry. M. P. Sornam Pandithar was recently nominated as a member of the Palamcottah Municipal Council.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I know whether the Adi-Dravidas and other depressed classes will be deprived of the seat meant for them whenever a member of the barber community or washerman community would get that seat ? ”